

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 2 and 4-22 are pending in the above application of which claims 1 and 22 are independent.

The Office Action dated April 15, 2010, has been received and carefully reviewed. In that Office Action, claims 1, 9, 14, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by FR 2799695, hereinafter, "Nocera," claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nocera in view of WO 02/072371, hereinafter "Butera," and claims 3-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nocera in view of DE 10243974, hereinafter "Burr." Each of these issues is addressed below, and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2 and 4-22 is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nocera. By the above amendment, the limitations of claim 3 have been added to claim 1, and claim 3 has been cancelled. Claim 3 was not rejected as being anticipated by Nocera. Claim 1 as amended is therefore submitted to be allowable over Nocera for at least the same reasons as claim 3.

Claims 9, 14 and 21 depend from claim 1 and are submitted to be allowable over Nocera for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 22 as amended recites an air vent with an air conduction device and an air-supplying air duct in the air conduction device, the air duct being divided into at least

two essentially cylindrical subducts. Each of the subducts has a centerline that runs from a first end of the subduct at the air duct to an outlet end of the subduct, and the centerlines of the at least two essentially cylindrical subducts are mutually parallel over their entire lengths. The Office Action appears to assert that in Nocera, at least a portion of the centerlines of ducts 9A and 9B are parallel. Claim 22 has been amended to recite subducts having centerlines that run from the duct to an outlet end of the subduct and that these centerlines are parallel over their entire lengths. Subducts with such parallel centerlines are not shown or suggested by Nocera, and claim 22 as amended is submitted to be allowable over Nocera for at least this reason.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nocera in view of Burr. Submitted herewith is a verified translation of the priority document for this application. With the filing of this translation, Applicant is entitled to rely on the August 11, 2003, date of the priority document. This date is earlier than Burr's April 1, 2004, publication date, and Burr therefore no longer qualifies as prior art. Because the rejections of claims 3-20 relied upon Burr and because Burr is no longer prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-20 patentably distinguish over the art of record. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former claim 3, and claims 2 and 21 also depend from claim 1. Claims 1, 2 and 21 are therefore also submitted to be allowable over the art of record.


CONCLUSION

Each issue raised in the Office Action dated April 15, 2010, has been addressed, and it is believed that claims 1, 2 and 4-22 are in condition for allowance. Wherefore, reconsideration and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited. If the examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Deposit Account Authorization

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-3828 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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